

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 587

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

February 18, 2003

An act to amend Section 2150 of the Elections Code, relating to voters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 587, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. voter.

Existing law requires that an affidavit of registration shall show specified information concerning the affiant including the facts necessary to establish the affiant as an elector.

This bill would require that the affidavit of registration to contain a space that would enable the affiant to state his or her ethnicity or race, or both. The bill would provide that an affiant may not be denied the ability to register because he or she declines to state his or her ethnicity or race. The bill would require the Secretary of State to design a model affidavit of registration that allows for the inclusion of information concerning the ethnicity or race, or both, of an affiant.

The bill would allow the Secretary of State and each local election official to exhaust supplies of voter registration affidavits prior to printing new or revised forms.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2150 of the Elections Code is amended
2 to read:

1 2150. (a) The affidavit of registration shall show:

2 (1) The facts necessary to establish the affiant as an elector.

3 (2) The affiant's name at length, including his or her given
4 name, and a middle name or initial, or if the initial of the given
5 name is customarily used, then the initial and middle name. The
6 affiant's given name may be preceded, at affiant's option, by the
7 designation of Miss, Ms., Mrs., or Mr. No person shall be denied
8 the right to register because of his or her failure to mark a prefix
9 to the given name and shall be so advised on the voter registration
10 card. This subdivision shall not be construed as requiring the
11 printing of prefixes on an affidavit of registration.

12 (3) The affiant's place of residence, residence telephone
13 number, if furnished, and e-mail address, if furnished. No person
14 shall be denied the right to register because of his or her failure to
15 furnish a telephone number or e-mail address, and shall be so
16 advised on the voter registration card.

17 (4) The affiant's mailing address, if different from the place of
18 residence.

19 (5) The affiant's date of birth to establish that he or she will be
20 at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the next election.

21 (6) The state or country of the affiant's birth.

22 (7) The affiant's California driver's license number, California
23 identification card number, or other identification number as
24 specified by the Secretary of State. No person shall be denied the
25 right to register because of his or her failure to furnish one of these
26 numbers, and shall be so advised on the voter registration card.

27 (8) The affiant's political party affiliation.

28 (9) That the affiant is currently not imprisoned or on parole for
29 the conviction of a felony.

30 (10) A prior registration portion indicating whether the affiant
31 has been registered at another address, under another name, or as
32 intending to affiliate with another party. If the affiant has been so
33 registered, he or she shall give an additional statement giving that
34 address, name, or party.

35 (b) The affiant shall certify the content of the affidavit as to its
36 truth and correctness, under penalty of perjury, with the signature
37 of his or her name and the date of signing. If the affiant is unable
38 to write he or she shall sign with a mark or cross.

39 (c) *The affidavit of registration shall also contain a space that*
40 *would enable the affiant to state his or her ethnicity or race, or*

1 *both. An affiant may not be denied the ability to register because*
2 *he or she declines to state his or her ethnicity or race.*

3 (d) If any person, including a deputy registrar, assists the affiant
4 in completing the affidavit, that person shall sign and date the
5 affidavit below the signature of the affiant.

6 SEC. 2. The Secretary of State shall design a model affidavit
7 of registration that allows for the inclusion of information
8 concerning the race or ethnicity, or both, of an affiant. In
9 determining which ethnicities or races to include on the model
10 affidavit, the Secretary shall consult the list of ethnicities and
11 races used by the United States Census Bureau on the bureau's
12 most recent census forms.

13 SEC. 3. The Secretary of State and each local election official
14 may exhaust supplies of voter registration affidavits prior to
15 printing new or revised forms.

